Allocation and Coordination of Issues between the Environmental Workgroup and Engineering and Operations Workgroup

Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)
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During the initial phase of the Department of Water Resources' effort to apply for a new Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license for the operation of the Oroville facilities, a number of potential and interrelated geomorphologic, water temperature, and hydrologic issues were identified. These issues were reflected in the issue statements approved by the Environmental Work Group and the Engineering and Operations Work Group. The following describes (1) how these issues were assigned to the two Work Groups, and (2) the process by which the Work Groups will coordinate their identification and development of information needed to address these issues.

Allocation of Issues

The Engineering and Operations Work Group will focus on geomorphologic, water temperature and hydrologic issues that have an effect on or are affected by the project's power, water supply and flood management operations. This Work Group will generally address only the physical aspects of the issues, including:

<u>Geomorphology</u>

- Sedimentation and its affect on reservoir storage; and
- Erosion and stability of downstream flood control levees and adjacent properties;
- Erosion and sediment deposition in and downstream of the project that might potentially effect flood flows, navigation, and irrigation.

<u>Water Temperature</u>

- Effect of project operations on water temperature in and downstream of the project waters; and
- Effects of providing selected water temperature on the project's water supply and power production.

<u>Hydrology</u>

- Reservoir operations, including water supply, power and flood control releases; and
- Amount and timing of tributary runoff.

The Environmental Work Group will focus on issues that deal with the potential effects of geomorphologic, water temperature and hydrologic aspects of the project on biological resources, ecosystem health and other beneficial uses, including the following:

Geomorphology

- Effect of turbidity and sediment on meeting water quality objectives and beneficial uses in and downstream of the project area;
- Effect of erosion and sediment deposition in and downstream of the project area on riparian (including bank swallow), reservoir draw-down zones, and aquatic habitat;
- Quality, quality and movement of fish spawning gravel; and
- Soil characteristics that affect the biological community.

Water Temperature

- Effect of water temperatures in project waters on aquatic resources, irrigated crops and other beneficial uses;

Hydrology

- The effects of the timing and volume of river on the geomorphologic factors identified above;
- The amount and quality of aquatic, riparian and wetland habitat;
- Fish passage; and
- Water quality affecting biological resources and ecosystem processes.

Coordination of Issues

The Environmental Work Group and the Engineering and Operations Work Group will closely coordinate their activities though out the development and implementation of study plans. They will:

- Identify available and additional information needed to address their respective issues;
- Identify available and additional hydrologic, water quality, geomorphologic and other appropriate models and field studies needed to address their issues; and
- Establish joint Task Forces to develop study plans that will produce the information needed by both Work Groups.